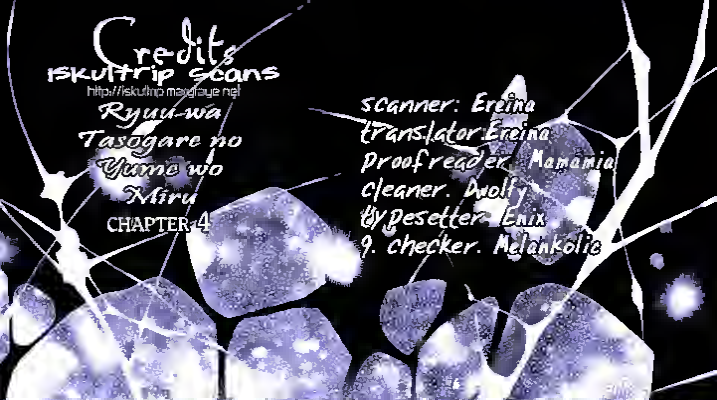
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RYUU WA TASOGARE NO YUME WO MIRU

THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE YOU CAN LIVE.
NO.
WITH YOUR OWN POWER.
SURVIVE THIS. IF YOU HAVE SOMEONE YOU WANT TO MEET
THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE THAT PERMITS YOUR EXISTENCE.

OUTLINE:

Hiraeawa Kiya, a half human and half dragon boy, was leading a peaceful and stable life with his father and older sister on Akai Island, an isolated place far away from society, when suddenly he was captured by <Illumine>, an organization interested in the native cell within him. Kiya is to pair up with TJ, a specialized beast trapper with a prosthetic leg!

THE STORY SO FAR

Kiya was locked up in a single cell and within an inch from his death. On the other hand, TJ was fighting with his boss, Barth, to not be paired up with Kiya as his trapper partner. While confronting each other in the cell, TJ overlapped Kiya's tearful plea to meet with his sister Koyomi with his own past, and told him that "if you want to meet her, then survive on your own strength". Little by little, the bond between the two started to form.

SOUID

TJ's colleague from <Illumine>. They fight like cats and dogs, but he recognizes him as his rival.

BOSS BARTH

He scouts for the trappers who hunt down decayas at the organization <Illumine>. He was old friends with TJ. Concerned with the native cell

HIRASAWA KOYOMI

Kiya's older sister. She often butts in for Kiya but thinks everything she does is for Kiya's sake. It's unknown whether she's dead or alive.

PROFESSOR HIRASAWA

Kiya's father. A few years ago he stole the native cell from <Illumine> and escaped. Currently it's unknown whether he's dead or alive

TJ

A man known as the "top trapper" of the half human half beast "decapay" in the organization <Illumine> He lost his leg during a mission. He holds great hatred for the decapay that called his lover at the same time.

HIRASAWA KIYA

A half dragon half human boy. He is a naive to live without clean water. His incredible constitution allows him to mature both his body and mind with each sleep cycle. Although he has the ability to transform into a dragon, he cannot control it by himself.

AN ASSASSIN WITH A PROSTHETIC LEG,
AND A HALF DRAGON, HALF HUMAN BOY...
A MODERN DARK FANTASY OF AN UNUSUAL COMBO!!!

RYUU WA TASOGARE NO YUME WO MIRU

CHAPTER 4: CONTROL
- AKIRA HIMEKAWA -

I, HOWEVER, STILL HAVE NO IDEA ON WHAT WE WILL BE DOING...

IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DECIDED THAT I WILL BE PAIRED UP WITH A PERSON NAMED TJ IN AN ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS < ILUMINE >.

MY NAME IS KIYA.

HEY, TJ!!!
I'M HUNGRY! LET'S EAT!
LET'S EAT TOGETHER!
HAVE YOU NOT HAD BREAKFAST?
I WAS THINKING OF EATING TOGETHER WITH TJ.
So I came
WHEN THE MEAL IS SERVED, JUST EAT BY YOURSELF.
IT DOESN'T TASTE AS GOOD IF YOU EAT IT ALONE IN THAT KIND OF ROOM.
COME ON, LET'S EAT TOGETHER
PLUS, I'VE NEVER EATEN ALONE.

STOP ACTING LIKE A SPOILT BRAT!!!
Acting friendly all of a sudden!!!
OWW... MY CHEEKS HURT...
LISTEN UP. I'LL ONLY TELL THIS ONCE.
I AM NOT YOUR GUARD-IAN!
Get used to it already!
SQUEEZE
THIS..
THIS PERSON IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT...

LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON
HE DOESN'T SMELL SWEET AT ALL.
HE'S HARD AND COLD
FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL UNDERGO TRAINING TO BECOME A TRAPPER.
THIS IS NECESSARY SO THAT YOU CAN UNDERTAKE OPS AS MY PARTNER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN A PERSON WHOSE SCENT CHANGED SO MUCH...
KOYOMI AND FATHER'S SCENT ALSO CHANGE DEPENDING ON THEIR MOOD.
LISTEN UP.
DON'T THINK YOU CAN RELY ON ME!!
BUT I'LL ONLY TELL THESE ONCE.
NO HELPING IT. I'LL EXPLAIN TO YOU FROM THE VERY START
BUT I DON'T GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING... WHAT'S A TRAPPER? AND OPS?
Y-YEAH! I'M LISTENING!
YOU LISTENING?!

DICAPAY ARE...
BEASTS THAT LIVE IN DARKNESS.
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU'RE QUICKLY RESPONDING WITH QUESTIONS.
AND WHAT'S A DICAPAY?
AND THIS "HUNT" IS CALLED OPS.
A TRAPPER IS ONE WHO HUNTS DICAPAY.
THEY FIRST CAME TO BE 20 MILLION YEARS AGO.
IT WAS SAID THAT THEY WERE AN ANCIENT BREED OF EARLY MEN WHO WERE HALF-BEASTS
SEVERAL TENS OF THOUSANDS YEARS AGO, THEY WERE THOUGHT TO HAVE DIED OUT IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL AGAINST HUMANS.
BUT EVEN NOW, SOME HAVE STILL REMAINED.
PERHAPS THE HATRED TOWARDS HUMANS HAS BEEN IMPRINTED INTO THEIR DNA.
BECAUSE UNTIL THIS VERY DAY, THEY STILL EAT HUMANS.
THEY E-EAT... HUMANS?!

THE MOST TROUBLESOME THING ABOUT THOSE GUYS IS THE FACT THEY CAN SHAPESHIFT INTO HUMANS.
WE CAN'T REALLY DIFFERENTIATE THEM FROM REGULAR PEOPLE.
SOMEHOW... WHAT I'M HEARING...
IS AN ANCIENT BREED THAT COULD APPEAR AS HUMANS.
IT SOUNDS... JUST LIKE ME.
I WAS ALSO CONCERNED AND CONFIRMED IT WITH BARTH. IT SEEMS THAT ARCHTYPES AND DICAPAY
ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT BREEDS, BOTH IN TIMELINE AND GENETICS.
Barth who?
HMM...
THAT'S RIGHT.
DNA IMPRINTED WITH HATRED TOWARDS HUMANS...
DOESN'T EXIST IN ME.

I LIKE HUMANS.
I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH EVERYONE.

AND WAS THUS SCOUTED BY THE SAID ORGANIZATION
BASICALLY, YOU WERE CHOSEN FOR YOUR DRAGON ABILITY
WE'RE CALLED "ILUMINE"
AND WE ARE THE ORGANIZATION THAT DEALS WITH THESE DICAPAY
SCOUTED?!
WHY NOT?!
THAT'S WHAT I'M MOST CONCERNED ABOUT!!!
I WON'T ACCEPT QUESTIONS THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE TRAINING
SO, TJ... DO YOU HATE ME?
AND IT WAS DECIDED AND FORCED UPON ME TO PAIR UP WITH YOU, SO I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TEACH YOU VARIOUS THINGS LIKE THIS
NO CHOICE?

WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A LECTURE.
STOP BEHAVING AS YOU PLEASE.
I ALREADY TOLD YOU FROM THE START!
UNDISCIPLINED PEOPLE AND LOOSE BEHAVIORS..
THOSE ARE WHAT I HATE THE MOST!
I...
I GOT IT.. SO PLEASE DON'T GLARE AT ME..
WITH SUCH A SCARY FACE..
IF YOU DISOBEY MY ORDERS, I WILL HIT YOU IMMEDIATELY.
STAND?!

ONE SECOND.
TRY TRANS-FORMING RIGHT NOW.
HUH?
WHEN DID THAT COME OUT.
...
PUT THAT AWAY.
...
IT'LL TEAR YOUR CLOTHES THAT WAY. TAKE THOSE OFF THEN DO IT.
YOU MEAN "CHANGE BACK"?
TRANS-FORM?
so bother-some...
Do this, do that...
WAIT!!!
IS THAT YOUR ORI-GINAL AP-PEARANCE? THEN, YES, RETURN TO ARCHTYPE.
SURE

THAT'S WEIRD... I CAN'T CHANGE BACK
IS IT BECAUSE I'M NOT IN WATER?
BUT I WAS ABLE TO DO IT YESTERDAY
...
HUH?
IT'S THE FIRST TIME THIS HAPPENED...
WHAT'S WRONG? HURRY UP AND DO IT.
I CAN'T CHANGE BACK
WHA-
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, TJ?!

두두두두두두
두두두두
두두

NO!
DON'T!
ガタガタ
ガタガタ
IF YOU CAN'T
THEN I'LL BLAST YOUR AIR AWAY WITH THIS GUN.
EASILY JUMPING OVER 5 METERS
HUH?
WAAH!
ドリ
ドリ

LET GO!
STOP THRASHING YOUR TAIL AROUND!
WAAAH! HELP ME!
ドドド

dejected...
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO BE A BURDEN LIKE THIS!
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW INCREDIBLE YOUR PHYSICAL ABILITY IS IF YOU CAN'T USE IT PROPERLY!
LET'S TAKE A SMALL BREAK
STAY THERE UNTIL I COME BACK!
NEITHER FATHER NOR KOYOMI HAS EVER HIT ME!
WHAT'S WITH TJ? HE'S SO MEAN! NOT ONLY WAS HE SCARY, BUT REALLY HARSH, TOO!
Are you Amuro?*
Ouchie...
*REFERRING TO GUNDAM'S INFAMOUS "BRIGHT SLAP" SCENE. AMURO WAS SLAPPED BY CAPTAIN BRIGHT AND SAID "NOT EVEN MY DAD HAS HIT ME!"
?
Come, come
キィ...

WELCOME TO ILUMINE!
HIYA.
SO YOU'RE THE DRAGON KID.
WHAT NAME DO YOU GO BY?
I'M... KIYA!!
HIRASAWA KIYA!!!

WHAT A LARGE-RUGGED HAND. IT'S SO WARM.
FRIEND?
F...
NICE MEETING YOU, KIYA AS A TRAPPER FRIEND I WELCOME YOU!
THAT SURNAME... ARE YOU JAPANESE?
THEN, YOU'RE ALL FRIENDS WITH TJ?
ARE EVERYONE TRAPPERS?
ALTHOUGH THE FOOD SUCKS HERE, THE COFFEE ISN'T TOO BAD.
Café ole for me
You call that "eat from the same bowl"
What do you call this in Japan, "badgers of the same hole"?
WE GAVE HIM THAT NICKNAME BECAUSE HE ALWAYS SHAVES HIS BEARD.
OH, YEAH. THIS GUY'S SHAVER, MY PARTNER.
IS TJ REALLY THAT AMAZING?
TOP?
Ack!
Bitter
I'LL SHOW OFF MY SKILLS NEXT TIME.
WE'RE LONG-TIME RIVALS FOR THE TOP TRAPPER'S SPOT.

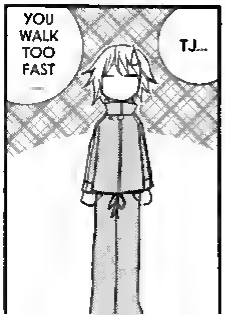
DUE TO THE CLOTHES I WEAR, SOME ALSO CALL ME THE WANDERING COWBOY.
I DON'T EVEN TOUCH A DROP OF ALCOHOL.
THAT'S BECAUSE MY NAME IS VIAJE*
HOW RUDE.
THAT GUY IS BEER. WHO, LIKE HIS NAME, IS A DRUNKARD
*THE JAPANESE SPELLING FOR "BEER" AND "VIA" IN VIAJE IS THE SAME SO IT'S A PLAY ON WORD BY SCUD. HIS NAME "VIAJE" IS A SPANISH WORD WITH MEANING OF JOURNEY
17
CAN YOU USE SOMEONE LIKE HIM IN A DICAPAY HUNT?
HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A DRAGON AT ALL.
THIS UNCUTE PERSON HERE IS GRANATE, THE STEEL.
HOW IS HE STRONG ??
しんしん…
TJ IS VERY ANNOYING
KIYA. WHATEVER THAT DEMON COACH TELLS YOU, DON'T TAKE IT TO HEART.
I DON'T REALLY GET IT BUT EVERYONE SOUNDS INTERESTING
HE'S SERIOUS, STUBBORN AND REFUSES TO LOSE
Hey now !!
AND I'M SCUD.
AS IN "FLAMMABLE, KEEP AWAY."

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
TELL ME MORE ABOUT THAT...
Huh?
TJ SMELLS GOOD?
TJ IS CERTAINLY SCARY.
NAH—
EVERY-ONE THOUGHT THE SAME.
Pffft
I KNEW IT.
BUT HE ALSO HAS A VERY GOOD SCENT
AT LEAST LET HIM INTRODUCE HIMSELF! WEREN'T YA'LL TAKING A BREAK ANYWAY?
CALM DOWN, TJ WOULD YOU LIKE SOME COFFEE?
DON'T TAKE HIM OUT WITHOUT PERMISSION!
SCUD!!! IT WAS YOU, WASN'T IT?!
Tsk.
KIYA IS SUCH A GOOD KID.
SEE YOU
THANKS FOR THE COFFEE.
KIYA, COME HERE.

IF HE CAN'T MAKE USE OF KIYA, THEN HE'LL BE FIRED THIS TIME FOR SURE.
I'M SURE HE REALIZES THAT
WELL, THE BAIT WAS A SUCCESS. BUT I WONDER IF HE'LL BE A LUCKY DRAW FOR TJ OR AN ILL FATE.
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR GOOD KIDS.
TJ'S FRIENDS ARE ALL GOOD PEOPLE!
THEY ALSO CALLED ME A FRIEND
TJ, I'M SORRY ABOUT MOVING AWAY EARLIER EVEN THOUGH YOU TOLD ME TO STAY
CALLED ME BY MY NAME "KIYA"
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE...
ILUMINE MIGHT BE A BETTER PLACE THAN I THOUGHT
PLUS I CAN DRINK BOTTLED WATER FAIRLY WELL... THANK GOODNESS
I AM SO HAPPY

Hmm?
WHEN I ESCAPED LAST TIME, I DIDN'T GET TO LOOK AROUND.
BUT NOW THAT I'M LOOKING AT THIS PLACE, IT'S AMAZING...
WHAT'S THIS?
THIS HUMAN HAS WINGS!
WHAT'S THAT..
TJ! HEY,

20


YOU WALK TOO FAST
TJ...

FAR AWAY
T..

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL STATUE.
IT LOOKS SO WONDERFULLY SOFT...
SO YOU HAVE WINGS
I HAVE A TAIL.
AND CLAWS
Huh?
WHY DID IT CHANGE BACK?
EVEN THOUGH I COULDN'T DO IT EARLIER..
TJ!!!
Well I'll go show him!

? WAS THERE SUCH A KID IN ILU-MINE?
NO, I WASN'T PAYING ATTEN-TION...
I'M SORRY! ARE YOU OKAY?
KYA!
AH!
ドン!!
DICAPAY!!!
KYAAA
!?

I DON'T THINK I SHOULD BE IN MY ORIGINAL FORM OVER THERE
I NEED TO QUICKLY CHANGE INTO A HUMAN..
IT'S THE ONE WE HEARD ABOUT..
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I SAW HIM
HUH? WHY IS IT OVER HERE? ISN'T HE SUPPOSED TO BE CLASSIFIED?
THIS BOY?
WHERE DID IT COME FROM, YOU RECKON? IS HE FOR REAL?
WHOA, IT'S GOT A TAIL!
HE'S NOT DICAPAY IT'S THAT BOY TJ BROUGHT BACK
HUH..?
HOW COME?
YET THEY'RE WHISPERING AMONGST THEMSELVES AND ARE NOT TALKING TO ME.
IS LOOKING AT ME.
EVERY ONE
ITS SO GROSS.
THE HAND THAT TOUCHED ME EARLIER..

GROSS?
AM I...
I NEED TO CHANGE INTO A HUMAN QUICKLY...
EVERYONE IS LOOKING AT ME WITH SUCH DISTASTE.
BUT I CAN'T CHANGE INTO A HUMAN
STOP IT...
I CAN'T RETURN TO MY ORIGINAL FORM, EITHER.
WHY AM I STUCK?
STOP IT!!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
25
TJ
STOP MAKING ME LOOK AFTER YOU.
COME QUICK
OH NOW YOU'RE IN A HURRY TO LEAVE.
DONE WITH SIGHT-SEEING?
WHY DON'T WE PEEL OFF THE SKIN OF YOUR ENTIRE BODY AND TAKE A LOOK SOMETIME.
IT'S ALL THE SAME FLESH, ORGANS AND BONES
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL THEM APART.

STICK CLOSE AND FOLLOW ME.
QUIT FLOUNDERING AROUND!
TJ...
I'M—
AM I...
GROSS?

IT'S AS IF THEIR GAZE EARLIER...
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ME IN THIS FORM?
DEEPLY PIERCED ME INSIDE-
I CAN'T SHAKE IT OFF.
IS IT BAD..?
WHEN YOU GO AROUND BY YOURSELF.
YOU'RE NO LONGER INSIDE A GARDEN'S WATER TANK.
KEEP IN MIND THE FACT THAT HUMANS WILL REJECT THOSE DIFFERENT FROM THEMSELVES
TO ENSURE THEIR OWN SAFETY!
DON'T GET WORKED UP EVERY TIME YOU'RE TREATED COLDLY BY SOCIETYY!

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE TREATED THE SAME WAY EARLIER, THEN DON'T SHOW *THAT* IN FRONT OF PEOPLE
BUT DON'T DENY YOUR ABILITIES
SO, WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT IT?
IT'S VERY SIMPLE ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS HIDE IT
LOOK! HE'S GOT A TAIL
REJECT...
THOSE WHO ARE DIFFE-RENT ..
I WAS TOUCHED BY THAT HAND
IT'S NECESSARY TO HAVE CONTROL OVER ONE'S SELF
WHICH, GOING FORWARD, I'M SURE YOU'LL ONLY KNOW TOO WELL.
THAT WAY, THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY POINT-LESS SUFFERINGS
MY OWN TRANS-FORMA-TION?
CON↑ROL...

OBEY MY ORDERS.
CARVE INTO YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS THAT YOU'LL TRANSFORM BY REFLEX WHENEVER YOU HEAR MY COMMAND
BECOME HUMAN BY THE SOUND OF MY VOICE. BECOME HUMAN.
BECOME!!!

I WAS ABLE TO...
TRANSFORM BY COMMAND!!!
TJ!!!
I THOUGHT I WOULD BE STUCK IN THAT FORM, UNABLE TO GO EITHER WAY!
I WAS SO SCARED!
YOU WERE ONLY TEMPORARILY FROZEN BECAUSE OF UNACCUSTOMED STRESS
OF COURSE IT TURNED OUT THIS WAY...
BUT, WELL...
YOU'RE MUCH BETTER NOW THAN EARLIER...
...

I WAS CALMED BY TJ'S VOICE.
A STRONG, UNSHAKEN, AND DIGNIFIED VOICE THAT RESONATED THROUGHOUT THE LAND.
AS LONG AS I FOLLOW THIS PERSON, EVERYTHING MIGHT TURN OUT OK...
BEFORE I REALIZED IT...
I WAS ALREADY CHASING AFTER TJ.
WAIT FOR ME!
Walking so fast even with a cane!
I WONDER WHO'LL BE PAYING FOR THIS GUY'S TORN CLOTHES FROM NOW ON?
OH, WELL...
NOT MY PROBLEM...
TJ, A SCARY BUT RELIABLE MAN... NEXT TIME, THE TRAINING WILL FINALLY COME TO AN END!!!
TO BE CONTINUED...